

Attorney Docket No.: 2002B133/2

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please replace drawing figures page 1/4 with the attached Replacement Sheet page 1/4. Figure 1 has been amended to identify the one or more gear pumps 125 described at least at paragraphs [0030] and [0031] of the specification. No new matter has been added.

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REMARKS

This reply is in response to the Office Action dated September 26, 2006. Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 11-52 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Applicants have canceled claims 28, 31-32, 42 and 45-46 without prejudice, add new claims 53-58, and amended the claims as shown to more clearly recite aspects of the invention.

Further, Applicants have amended Figure 1 and propose amending paragraphs [0030] and [0031] for the reason stated below. Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

AMENDMENTS TO FIGURES

Applicants have amended Figure 1 to include the one or more gear pumps 125 that are described in the specification as filed at least at paragraphs [0030] and [0031]. Applicants have also amended paragraphs [0030] and [0031] to correctly identify the "gear pumps" with the reference numeral "125" to match the amended Figure 1.

AMENDMENTS TO DESCRIPTION

Further, Applicants propose amending paragraph [0031] to correct the unintentional error of "25 wt % to 75 wt % transport medium." It is clear from the specification, e.g. paragraphs [0027] through [0031], that the text should have stated "25 wt % to 75 wt % oil." Entry of such amendments is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 21-41 and 43-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,426,394 to Erickson et al. ("Erickson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,317,036 to Brady et al. ("Brady").

Applicants have amended the claims obviating the rejection. More particularly, Applicants have amended the claims to recite "supported catalyst systems" and "one or more gear pumps" for transferring the supported catalyst mixture to a reactor. Neither Brady nor Erickson, alone or in combination, teach, show or suggest supported catalyst systems, as required in every claim, as amended. Neither Brady nor Erickson, alone or in combination, teach, show or suggest

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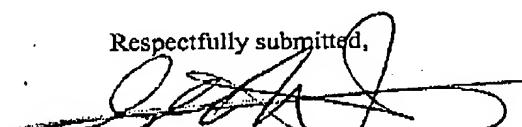
gear pumps for transferring catalyst slurry, as required in every claim, as amended. Further, neither Brady nor Erickson, alone or in combination, teach, show or suggest slurry polymerization systems, as required in claims 37-44 and 47-52. For at least these reasons, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-20 and 37-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,239,058 to Shamshoum et al. ("Shamshoum") in view of Brady.

Applicants have amended the claims obviating the rejection. More particularly, Applicants have amended the claims to recite "one or more gear pumps" for transferring the catalyst mixture to a reactor. At the very least, neither Shamshoum nor Brady, alone or in combination, teach, show or suggest gear pumps for transferring catalyst slurry, as required in every claim as amended. For at least this reason, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any issues outstanding which have not been addressed to the Examiner's satisfaction. If necessary to affect a timely response, this paper should be considered a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to affect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 05-1712 (Docket # 2002B133/2).

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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